

SAMPAN



舢舨

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A Quarter Century of Change For Boston's Asian Community

The 25th Anniversary Edition of the Sampan



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THE SAMPAN

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STORIES

Jimmy Yee's Workplace

(James Yee, 31, maintains fire alarm systems in the Boston Public Schools. Over the last year his department's Asian and black workers have been receiving a series of hate letters in which the author disparages Asians and blacks. The letters are threatening and insulting to minorities. Yee spoke about his experiences in the workplace in a recent Sampan interview.)

I was born in the Old Pine Street Inn neighborhood. My family moved out of there after a year or so and moved to Castle Square in the South End. That neighborhood was diverse. We had blacks, we had whites, we had Hispanics, we had Chinese. And everyone got along together in the neighborhood. It was a very comfortable neighborhood to be in.

I went to Charlestown High from 1980 to 1984. And before that I went to Clarence Edwards Middle School in Charlestown, so I spent eight years of my life going to school in Charlestown.

After high school I was offered a job through the school department. It was a promised job. Whoever had taken the electrical program at Charlestown High was supposed to have a guaranteed job when they graduated. Someone from the School Department had come in and asked me if I wanted to go downtown and look into a job as an assistant supervisor in the electrical division. In July 1984 I started working there. My job is to go to buildings and protect people's lives and property. I'm concerned with anything that has to do with the fire alarm system. I'm supposed to ensure everyone's safety. That's my job, day in and day out.

In 1984, when I first started the job, it wasn't a very comfortable atmosphere. When I first walked into the office I knew I was a young guy right out of high school. I looked around and looked into people's faces to try to get a sense of how people felt towards me because I was new and young. And I saw anger on a lot of the guys' faces in the electrical division. This is day one. I looked at myself. I asked myself why thousands of times. I felt I was different. I didn't see any Asians working on the department's fire alarm crews. So I kept telling myself that maybe I'm the first one and the only one. I felt very uncomfortable.

As time went on my co-workers would come up to me and try to frighten me by telling me things like, layoffs are coming, layoffs are coming, and it's the lowest man on the totem pole who goes first. And I kept asking myself, Who's the lowest guy on the totem pole? And I said, That's me. And that would stress me out, every day going home after being subjected to that from co-workers. I felt that I was not wanted there and they were looking for any avenue to get me out of there, to stress me out and make me leave before I even put a year in.

And I told myself I'm going to work and see if I like the job. But every few days the same thing would pop up again. Then the next twist was: Oh Jimmy, make sure you take the Police Department exam, make sure you take the Fire Department exam. I'm sure you can get in there.

It was another sign of their telling me they don't want me here. And I felt, how come they don't want me here? And I felt very uncomfortable being a young guy trying to do good and do my job the right way.

My father didn't really have any suggestions; he would just tell me to go to work. And my mother told me to just go to work and keep my nose clean and don't start any trouble. And I said, Well I'm doing that. And I'd come home and tell my mother, Look, I'm stressed out, I'm bothered, there's something at work, people are bothering me, and I don't know what to do. It's such a tough situation; you don't want to involve your parents because they have enough problems raising the children in the family. I have one sister and three brothers. My dad

was born in mainland China and my mother was born in Los Angeles, California.

As time went on, after my first year of being on the job, they offered to put me on a rotation list to make overtime, to make more money. And one of the bosses from management had approached me and asked if I would like to be on the list. And at that time, I thought, yeah that would be nice, I could make some more money. And I was determined to do it. And as soon as he asked me again I looked around and could just see the faces telling me, Don't you dare put your name

has closed and the shop teacher has retired, but that memory is still fresh in my mind.

As years went by I was assaulted over and over. The first time it was by a teacher, but the second time it was by a principal. The next one was by a supervisor. The one after that was someone from management. And all these assaults had taken place on School Department property.

The second time was 1992, on Dorchester Avenue. I was coming in from a call and going in to do some daily reports. I was coming through a door and a principal had come out of the door and asked me for some classroom clocks. I said, I don't have any at the moment; I told you that at the school. When I get them I will bring them to you. But he was so persistent. He comes up to me; he looks down on me - he was a tall fellow - and he puts his finger in my chest; he starts poking me and degrading me by saying, Hey you, hey you. Are you listening to me? Hey you, I'm talking to you down there. And it just blew my mind; he's poking me straight in the chest. I was like, What is this guy? I felt very uncomfortable and this is a principal. You would think that people with that type of status would act professionally.

There was another occasion when I was in the warehouse with a supervisor and the supervisor was just rapping with me and there was no one around. He touched me on the side of my arm. Then he touched me a little more, like tapping me, so I pushed his hand away. The next thing you know he had taken me and thrown me on the ground, and placed me in a headlock and threatened to snap my back.

He was kidding me at first, but when I tried to move his hand away, to keep him away from me, he said I was aggressive. He was playing around but he was trying to irritate me and see if I would yell, see what kind of emotions I would let out. He was my supervisor for a short time. It's like, I would never forget that day he threw me on the ground and threatened to snap my back. And he's still working there, so it's hard for me to go into the office and see this guy still working there all these years after what he did to me.

There was one incident that took place in September, 1996. We had gone to Court Street for a special meeting to ask my director about the procedures involved in being promoted to permanent status. And we had written out a list of things, of questions we wanted to ask. So we showed up at his office and we knocked on his door and he invited us in; he was very nice about it; he made some phone calls while we were standing there. The next thing you know he was answering some questions. But the very next day he called a mandatory meeting at Dorchester Ave. I was late by five minutes because of traffic. So I was coming through the door with my partner and assistant supervisor, and he grabbed me around the arm. And he started grabbing me really tight. He started shaking my arm like I was a tree and started yelling and spitting. He was really upset. You could tell because his eyes were red. Because I was late by five minutes. He was my director. I'd known him since I was hired. When I was hired he was the assistant director.

He was shaking me. He was really really irate and I was just so nervous afterward. And he only stayed there for the first few minutes to tell everyone that no one was supposed to come up to his office without permission and he was going to dock everyone an hour's pay. He didn't want anything like that to ever happen again. Because he was claiming it was work stoppage and it wasn't. And later down the line the union had brought up the issue that it was not work stoppage. So we had about one hour's pay returned.

Continued on page 9



Jimmy Yee

on that list. So again I declined because at that moment my life was more important - being alive and healthy - than being harassed.

Part of it was because I was Asian and part of it was my youth. A lot of older guys were in their 40s, so they didn't really appreciate my coming in and being so young. They knew if I stayed there a long time I would probably be in their position in 10 years.

When 1985 came around, I was working in a school in East Boston. I was by myself because my supervisor was out that day. I wanted to test the fire alarm, and I had to run to the basement. As I was coming down the stairs near the end of the day, everyone was going home; the students were coming down. And I was grabbed by a shop teacher. He hit me in the chest with both of his hands. He grabbed me by the sweater and picked me up off the floor. He held me suspended in the air. I asked him to put me down and he wouldn't put me down. I just kept saying, Put me down, put me down. He was telling me, Look, you're running down the wrong side of the staircase. I told you students all to get on the other side of the railing and come down.

He thought I was a student, and I told him I was not a student. I work for the city. Please put me down. He would not release me. But how could I make a complaint against someone who was that big. This guy was a big guy; he was a sheet metal shop teacher, so he was a big burly guy. The only reason he put me down was that some of his students were coming down the stairs and they screamed, That's the guy who tests the fire alarms. So then he put me down. I was assaulted. I said, oh God, what's going on? That was pretty traumatic, to just keep thinking about what had just happened. I contacted my director and he filed a complaint. The teacher tried to apologize for what he did, but he didn't want to apologize that day.

I didn't think he should be manhandling any students. I was planning to file charges but I said, no I don't want to start any trouble; I'm so new to the job; I just won't make any waves. So I went back to the school. The principal had to intervene. He said, Oh just shake his hand and we can let bygones be bygones. And, you know, after I shook his hand, I was not happy. Because he wasn't assaulted; I was assaulted. I was picked up off the floor. It just felt very uncomfortable going into that building. That building

Running for Office in Newton

It was frustration with town government that inspired Amy Mah Sangiolo to run for alderman-at-large in Newton's Ward 4.

When the 33-year-old lawyer became involved in a neighborhood development battle, she soon discovered how difficult it is to gain access to Newton's aldermen. Either they didn't answer her calls or they didn't take her concerns too seriously, she says.

"The real issue is access to our city officials and that's what made me want to run," says Sangiolo, the first Asian-American woman to run for alderman in Newton.

Sangiolo, who is challenging incumbent Aldermen Dick McGrath and Roderick MacLeish for one of two at-large seats in Newton's Nov. 4 election, has been emphasizing the need for greater access to city government and attention to education and development issues in her pitch to voters. Politicians, she says, need to be more accountable to voters and more responsive to the real needs of ordinary people and communities. An average citizen in Newton, she says, can't even get a copy of the city budget to see how their tax money is being spent.

Describing her campaign as a "real grassroots effort," Sangiolo says that no one thought she had a "snowball's chance" of winning when she entered the race. Now, however, she believes she is within striking distance of her opponents. "I would like to think it's a close race," says the mother of a 17-month-old son.

In recent weeks, Sangiolo has been busy going door to door in Newton and attending community events to introduce herself to voters. She's gone to farmers markets and supermarkets, as well as local political events. "I've gone to almost every single mayoral debate," she says.

"People are really concerned about protecting the quality and character of their neighborhoods," she adds. "Newton is under tremendous pressure from developers."

Another key issue for her is the current state of the school system. In recent years Newton's schools have become increasingly crowded as the children of the baby boom generation entered the school system. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, school systems such as Newton's closed schools and sold them to be developed as condominiums when the school-age population decreased. Now the student population is up again and classrooms are overcrowded and, in some cases, short of books and other supplies, she says.

While she is unwilling to describe the current race as negative, she said last week's candidates' debate veered in that direction when her opponents questioned her integrity regarding a neighborhood development issue. Sangiolo, however, shot back that McGrath appeared to have a conflict of interest in promoting an ordinance that would likely benefit his business.

Sangiolo said her opponents implied that she had benefited from the creation of a charitable trust in her and her husband's name after Sangiolo raised questions about the impact the development of an old warehouse into an office complex and parking garage would have on the nearby Charles River.

Although she said the development was behind her property and would not have a direct impact on it, she was drawn into the dispute by neighbors who opposed it. She said she wasn't opposed to the development itself, only its size. She also believed that the 1,100 car parking garage should be moved an additional 20 feet from the

Charles River. After taking her concerns to the Conservation Commission and being rebuffed, she appealed to the Department of Environmental Protection. Arguing that she hadn't a strong case against the project, the developers offered to reach a settlement by paying her \$100,000.

But Sangiolo, who had worked for various environmental organizations in Washington prior to coming to Newton about two years ago, says she hadn't opposed the size and location of the garage because she wanted to get money from



Newton alderman-at-large candidate Amy Mah Sangiolo

Photo by Marcy Stuart

the developers. "This wasn't a matter of it impacting our property," she says.

After her attorney advised her that her appeal would likely fail, Sangiolo instead asked the developers to contribute \$300,000 for a trust fund to support environmental projects and community concerns. The developers eventually agreed to donate \$200,000, and Sangiolo and her husband John, an electrical engineer, were named trustees. The money from the charitable, environmental trust would be used to fund Charles River watershed projects and other community projects.

"They (her opponents) are saying I have control over community money," says Sangiolo, who adds that her response to the criticism is: "You guys should have done your job. You should have been there." And while "the general consensus is that 'she did a really nice thing'" by developing the community trust, some residents appear to question her motives, saying, "What's her angle? What's her motive?" Sangiolo, however, finds such a response offensive and questions whether it's possible to do anything altruistic in today's society without having someone question your motives.

"They're making this into a huge issue," says Sangiolo, who pointed out that McGrath stood to gain business by proposing an ordinance allowing residents to have a second water meter free of charge. She said that McGrath, who has a sprinkler business, also sells water meters.

"We were at a really hot debate last night," she says, adding that she hopes that the campaign won't turn negative but points out that her opponents were the first to move in that direction by attacking her integrity. "He's talking about my personal ethics," she says of one opponent.

Sangiolo, who is of Chinese and Japanese ancestry, is courting Asian voters to strengthen her campaign. She said one estimate suggests

that the Asian population of Newton is now as high as 10,000, compared to the 3,700 figure shown in the 1990 Census. Sangiolo, who has targeted Asian voters through mailings and phone calls, is also trying to get more Asians registered. She says there are now slightly more than 1,000 Asians registered to vote in Newton.

Sangiolo believes an Asian candidate has the potential to draw more Newton Asians into the political process. "I think the Asian community wants someone to be their voice," she says. And while she says she has met with some skepticism

from Asian-born residents because she was born and raised in Weehawken, New Jersey - just across the river from New York City - she says she has maintained contact with her Asian roots. As a student at Barnard College in New York she was a member of a Chinese student group and the Asian Students Union, while at Rutgers University Law School she was president of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

Although the Asian community in Newton in the past has not formed a cohesive voting bloc, Sangiolo is hoping one will develop in this election and lead to greater Asian involvement in community affairs. And while some Asian parents are involved in the PTA and other school activities, she says Newton's Asians in general do not appear to have developed a strongly linked Asian community.

Sangiolo believes Newton's Asian community has a range of concern, including language and cultural obstacles, and discrimination. Also worrisome to many Asian-born parents are

generational and cultural conflicts with their American-born children. Grades, for example, may not be high enough or a daughter may want to pierce her ears, she says. A child may be interested in writing poetry but his parents may want him to pursue a career in business. She tells the parents that it's natural for teenagers to rebel. The children, meanwhile, sometimes have their own problems to contend with in the mainstream world. "I've heard that Asian students have it difficult" because they are often stereotyped as being good in math and getting into good schools, she says.

Sangiolo says that when she first started her campaign people were surprised to see she was Asian because of her name (her husband is of Italian ancestry). Many people also expected her to fit the "typical stereotype of an Asian woman" as being quiet and "mousy." But, she says, they soon found out that she was quite willing to speak her mind.

Although her decision to run was somewhat spontaneous, she says that politics has always an interest. "I thought the whole political process was interesting," she says, adding that she believes her American-born Chinese father and Japanese-born mother are proud of her efforts, though they also seem to question why she would expend so much time and energy seeking a seemingly thankless job.

Sangiolo, who has received the endorsement of the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition, believes that Asians have not sought public office in large numbers because they tend to focus more on their jobs, their children, and children's schooling. She suggests that many may think they don't have to get involved in politics because other people will be there to do the political work for them.

-Robert O'Malley

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call Marlene Ching (493-2981) or David Chao (493-2232).

Language Rights Conference '97: Oct. 25, UMass Boston, Wheatley Bldg., Boston. Come hear and share information about organizing quality bilingual education; California's anti-bilingual education initiative; ebonics, interpreters services, etc. Fee: \$25; \$15 students and low-income. For reservations and inf. call the MA English Plus Coalition at 457-8888.

VOICES

Sampan: A Community Voice for 25 Years

By Anping Shen

It was eight years ago when I first read the Sampan at the International Student and Scholar's Office at Boston University. I was immediately attracted by the unique character of this bilingual newspaper. I cannot say that it was "love at first sight." However, since then I have always managed to read, more or less, this community-oriented newspaper, whenever it is available. I guess that's the typical way we have maintained most of our friends given our crazy lifestyle in this "new" world.

Later, for a community education course project, I visited the Asian American Civic Association (AAC) where the unassuming Sampan office is located. I gained a greater understanding of AAC's and the Sampan's mission and their commitment to serving the Chinese and Asian communities of Greater Boston. While I know there will not be any high-profile fanfare for the Sampan's 25th anniversary, I think the AAC and the Sampan should feel good to celebrate their efforts to sustain a minority community voice, which traditionally has not been well-heard in mainstream American society.

For the past few decades, Asian minorities have been perceived by the mainstream media as the "model minority" for whom everything was supposed to be going all right. It is true that there have been many heartwarming reports in the Sampan - or, recently, in its cover stories - about many positive community activities, such as support for new immigrants and needy residents, the growth of Chinese and Asian community political participation, and family and cul-

tural activities. As a matter of fact, during my ESL class in Chinatown, I read one recent report from the Sampan on how four AAC students won \$1,000 scholarships to go to Bunker Hill Community College. Many of my students were interested in their success in learning English. Who knows, someday they (most of them are new immigrants) might share their success stories with the Sampan readers.

Unfortunately, things have not always been that rosy in the Chinese and Asian communities, as in other minority communities. It is from the Sampan, among other media sources, that I have learned a lot of inside stories about Chinatown community safety problems, workers compensation disputes, construction and land development debates, racial discrimination issues, and, of course, various "in-house" squabbles. While it is always difficult to be critical of one's own community behaviors (remember, losing face is a big deal in the Chinese culture), I think the Sampan has largely maintained its professional integrity. All the people who have been involved in the Sampan should feel proud of their accomplishment.

During the past years, I have also been a writer for the Sampan, thanks to the encouragement and support of both its English and Chinese editors. After I had written a series of articles regarding bicultural parenting, education and learning early this year, I received some pretty good feedback from the Sampan readers, some of whom are known to me, others not. Frankly, I have never received this much publicity after the publication of my academic articles. I now consider myself one of the Sampan's loyal

friends and venture to think that I have earned a certain right to share my expectations of the newspaper.

If there should be anything I would desire from the Sampan, I think there should be more insightful coverage of political and social issues which have considerable effect on the Chinese and Asian communities. Last year's stories in the Sampan highlighting the debate over Boston Latin School's racial admissions quota is a good example. New England Medical Center expansion could be another one. And with mayoral and gubernatorial elections approaching, I think the Sampan readers should be informed - or probably even educated - regarding the candidates and the pertinent issues.

In the same vein, I would like to see an editorial section in the Sampan. This is the place where the newspaper can gain more influence, attention, and tension! And certainly a broader readership. I would argue that the editorial is where the newspaper raises its own voice on the important issues; it is the newspaper's soul! If I'm busy, I usually skip many sections of my favorite newspapers, but I always try to read their editorials, even if it means just scanning the titles. I know it is very challenging for a community newspaper like the Sampan to have an editorial, technically, linguistically (due to its bilingual nature) and, of course, politically. But, hey, the Sampan is 25 years old now; it's all right to be a little more independent. The Chinese and Asian communities really need one (strong) voice, or two, or more!

On the Cover: New Year's in Chinatown, late 1980s.

Photo by Robert O'Malley

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COVER STORY

A Quarter Century of Change For Boston's Asian Community

The 25th Anniversary Edition of the Sampan

When Stephanie Fan used to walk into Chinatown stores or restaurants 25 years ago, she was almost always greeted by storekeepers who spoke Toisanese and knew her or her family.

"They would take one look at us and know who we were," she says of the people living and working in Chinatown in that earlier era. "You did feel you were part of a small neighborhood."

But when she walks into a Chinatown market or restaurant today, she says, she will often be greeted by people who don't know her and speak Cantonese or Mandarin rather than Toisanese.

In short, much has changed since the Sampan published its first issue in the form of a newsletter 25 years ago in the fall of 1972. Fan, who moved out of Chinatown the year the Sampan was founded, believes the gradual change in the character of the local Asian community began in the early 1970s.

For one thing, more people in Chinatown shops began to speak Cantonese rather than Toisanese as more immigrants from Hong Kong and other Asian countries arrived in Boston in the 1970s. Many of these new immigrants were the beneficiaries of 1965 immigration law reforms that lifted restrictions on Asian immigration and promoted family reunification. And with the normalization of relations with China in 1979 and the subsequent growth of the Chinese student population, more and more people in Chinatown shops began to speak Mandarin during the 1980s and 1990s. The growth in the Mandarin population was also stimulated by the growing wealth of the Taiwanese who were sending their children to study in America in greater numbers. Combined with the immigration of many Southeast Asian refugees following the end of the Vietnam War, the Greater Boston Asian community over the last quarter century has grown dramatically and become increasingly diverse.

A Larger, More Diverse Community

Over the last 40 years, the Boston Asian population has been growing steadily, from an estimated 5,200 Asians in the city in 1960, to 7,900 in 1970, 15,000 in 1980, and 30,388 in 1990. US Census figures for Asians and Pacific Islanders living in Massachusetts have grown even more dramatically, from 52,615 in 1980 to 143,392 in 1990.

The changes in the local Asian community have been driven largely by population growth and diversity. The end of the Vietnam War in 1975, for example, brought a wave of Vietnamese refugees to the US and eventually to Chinatown to open businesses. Although many of the Vietnamese who opened businesses in Chinatown were ethnic Chinese, many Vietnamese were drawn to the neighborhood to shop and eat in restaurants. Meanwhile, Lowell gained a large Cambodian population, while the Dorchester section of Boston became home for many of the city's Vietnamese refugees.

Although a number of long-time residents say a sense of being part of a small village protected from the mainstream world has largely been lost over the last 25 years, some also point out that a new openness to the mainstream world and greater participation in the larger society has been gained.

"Chinatown has opened up more and more," says Doris Chu, director of the Chinese Culture Institute. While "it was still kind of isolated" before the 1980s, it is now "truly part of the society at large," she says.

"Now there are more young people and organizations," she adds. "I think this is a very clear sign of the development of the community."

Growth of Community Activism

In many ways, the late 1960s and early 1970s was a vibrant time in the local Asian community. It was a period that saw the founding of the local Chinese community's most prominent social ser-

vice providers, including the Chinese American Civic Association (now the Asian American Civic

political influence in the community and with city politicians, in part because people associated



Taiwan National Day parade in Boston early 1990s.

Association (AAC), which publishes the Sampan; the South Cove Community Health Center; the Quincy School Community Council (recently renamed the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center); and the Chinese Progressive Association. In the 1980s, the Asian American Resource Workshop would also be founded and become an active voice in local Asian-American affairs.

The activist spirit of the period was in part influenced by the civil rights and anti-war movements of the time. Before then, say some observers, Chinatown was still largely an inward-turning community. "I think in the 70s what you had was an emerging Asian American movement," says David Moy, director of the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. Reflecting the activist spirit of the times, American-born Chinese and others saw the need for more services to ease the transition of a largely immigrant community to a new country. It was an activism that had largely been absent from the Chinatown of the 1960s.

Twenty-five years later, says Moy, Chinatown has a sophisticated group of community activists to keep tabs on local developments that may impact Chinatown. In recent years, a community coalition stopped the construction of several proposed Central Artery Project exit ramps that would have dumped Artery traffic onto Marginal Road. "I firmly think the Chinese community at this point in its development is probably more politically active and ambitious than at any other point in its history," says Moy.

Although some observers have criticized Chinatown for its factional squabbling, Moy sees such conflicts and disagreements as a sign of health and vibrancy.

It means, he says, that diverse opinions are being aired. "I don't think it's fair to expect the community to have a homogenous approach to these things," he says, adding that in the 1960s essentially one organization - the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association - called the shots in Chinatown.

Political Complexities

But while some see changes in Chinatown politics, others suggest that below the surface the same small group of people continue to exert influence over how resources are used and who controls them. "I think that in many ways those who control the most resources in town still control the politics in town," says Fan.

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, for example, still has a monopoly on

with it have worked to raise money to elect Boston politicians. As a result, many local politicians and people in the community are still unwilling to openly criticize the organization even if they disagree with its actions. Moreover, its traditional style of leadership often clashes with newer models developed by younger generations of Asian Americans. "The traditional Chinese organizations need to be more process oriented," says Fan, who believes such organizations in the past have "always been more personality oriented than process oriented."

In contrast, some of the community's politically progressive groups are generally not associated with business interests and as a result have little influence over politicians. Moy, however, believes that may change as voters become more ethnically and racially diverse. Vote-hungry politicians may turn to progressives for support because they are better able to make alliances with ethnic groups outside of Chinatown who can provide them with more votes, he argues. "I personally think people want things to change faster," he says.

Bak Fun Wong, the principal of the Josiah Quincy Elementary School in Chinatown, believes two forms of political leadership coexist in today's Chinatown: the traditional style associated with the family associations and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, and a style promoted by younger groups whose members are often born or raised in the US and include organizations such as the Chinatown Coalition and the Chinatown Neighborhood Council. "Somehow we can use the wisdom of both," he says. "We have the Asian wisdom and we have the Western wisdom and it can be done."

"I always want to advocate for the second generation," he adds. "They are the ones with the best of two worlds."

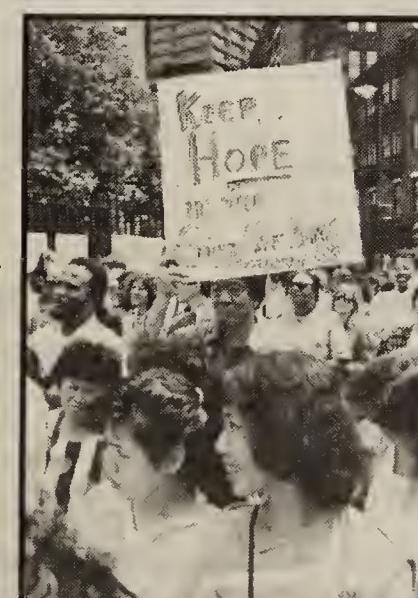
Yet, the growing political activism observed over the years in Chinatown has not been translated into a significant growth in influence over politicians or elections, though that could change if more Asians are prodded to vote in communities with large Asian populations. More Asian Americans, for example, are now running for political office, with Daniel Lam recently being elected selectman in Randolph and Amy Mah Sangiolo running for alderman-at-large in Newton (see story on page 3).

"We don't have the pure numbers to be a political force," says Moy, who believes the year 2000 Census is going to show significant growth in the local Asian population and perhaps foreshadow an increase in voting power in the coming century.

The Growth of the Suburbs

But while most observers suggest that the Asian community has become larger, more diverse, and more politically adept over the last

Continued on page 6



Southeast Asian State House demonstration in the late 1980s.

COVER STORY

Continued from page 4

25 years, it has also become more suburban. While most Chinese in Boston would have been living in the Chinatown area a quarter century ago, large Asian communities now exist in Newton, Quincy, and Malden. At the same time, those who do live in Chinatown appear to be staying there longer than they did in the past.

Although Chinatown continues to attract new immigrants, a shortage of housing, the presence of family members living in outlying areas, and the desire to live in less crowded surroundings has led many new and recent immigrants to settle in cities such as Malden and Quincy. And while a significant number of new housing complexes have been built in Chinatown over the last 25 years - most recently Oak Terrace and Mei Wah Village - sufficient housing is still not available to satisfy the demand. Recent immigrants, a large elderly population, and families who have decided to stay in the Chinatown over the long-term make up today's Chinatown population. "I think Chinatown has become a less transitional community," says Wong. "People now live here rather than stay here a couple of years."

Wong also points out that more families are living in Chinatown now than had been 25 years ago. "We have a more stable Chinatown in terms of residents and a more family-oriented Chinatown," he says. Before, the elderly and new immigrants made up the bulk of the population, but now there are more families who are staying longer. He argues that "more mixed-income housing" is needed in Chinatown to attract second generation Asians who may want to remain in the city. "That's one thing we all have to look into," he says, adding that the college-educated second generation often moves to the suburbs because housing is not available in Chinatown, where the bulk of the housing is for low-income people.

Income Gaps

While many restaurant owners and others have purchased houses in cities such as Malden and Quincy, more highly educated professionals have tended to move to suburbs such as Newton, Lexington, and Weston. The high education level of some segments of the Asian population also appears to be widening the income gap within the local community. "The gap between the haves and the have-nots is going to be bigger," says Wong, who adds that the haves tend to be the American-born or Asian-born who came here to attend universities. "The Asian community is getting big but you can see the discrepancy between the rich and the poor," he says.

"Chinatown has made some progress but it's still being stereotyped as a ghetto," Wong continues. People in Chinatown are still sometimes stigmatized by wealthier, more educated Chinese living in the suburbs. The idea is: "Oh you're living in Chinatown," so "oh you cannot make it," he says.

Wong believes the less wealthy class of new immigrants continues to need social services to address their needs. "We need more services for

the ones who have no resources," particularly job training, job counseling, and English language instruction, he says. In some ways, he adds, it's more difficult to survive as a new immigrant today than it was 20 years ago.

At the same time, the wealth of some members of the professional class continues to grow. Catherine Hsu, the founder and the director of the Chinese Culture Connection, says there are now a significant number of new Asian multi-millionaires who have made their fortunes in the Route 128 computer industry. These entrepreneurs came to the US to study, worked in the computer industry, then started their own businesses. While the late An Wang is the most well-known example of high-tech success, others are now following a similar path.

Ties That Bind

But despite these income and class differences, Wong and others point out that the suburban Chinese still have strong cultural attachments to Chinatown. While many Asians prefer to live in the suburbs, they still visit Chinatown to purchase food and eat in restaurants.

Moreover, some Chinese living in the suburbs still feel detached from their suburban communities. "I think there is a yearning for more participation in the community we are living in," says Wong, a Newton resident. Although many Asians vote in elections, some may feel isolated from the political and social life of their towns and cities. Such isolation, however, may be gradually changing as more Asians seek political office and attend local school committee meetings. "We're starting to feel we need to be involved," Wong adds.

Anna Yee, a project manager for the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development and a former Sampan editor, believes that the expansion of the Asian community into the suburbs was a positive development. "That really helped the Chinese community to be part of the mainstream, yet maintain our uniqueness," she says. A resident of Lexington, Yee says she feels comfortable living in the suburbs and suggests that interacting with her neighbors shouldn't be a problem for people who speak English. Moreover, Yee sees growing evidence that Asians are beginning to get more involved in suburban community life, particularly through the development of parent groups to address educational concerns such as the need for more Asian teach-

ers in Lexington. "So we're making that shift," she says.

At the same time, she adds, suburban residents still feel an attachment to Chinatown and the larger idea of a Chinese community. For example, many schools to teach Chinese language and culture have sprouted up in suburban communities in recent years. "The income gap has been recognized," she says, "but I don't think it should be polarizing." Just because people live in the suburbs or have high incomes "doesn't mean they have less concern about the community," she says, adding that large income gaps also exist in mainstream American society.

"I think financially the gap is smaller than people think," adds Chu, who believes that "suburban people on the average have more education and better jobs" but have also made an effort over the years to bridge the gap between them and

urban Chinese.

Future Concerns

As the area's Asian community approaches the year 2000, some Asian Americans believe that a far more politically savvy and involved community will emerge, propelled in part by the need to ensure that its members are receiving equal treatment in society. A dominant issue for many Asians is the need for equality, particularly in the workplace, says Moy. Although Asians have in general made significant strides in American society over the last 25 years, especially in education, he suggests many people believe that obstacles continue to exist in the workplace. "I think many of them have run into the glass ceiling," he says, adding, "that is a real concern out there."

During the 60s and into the 70s, Asians tended to retreat into their own communities largely because many felt that the mainstream society was not especially receptive to them. But Moy points out that the "mainstream has a way of making decisions that have an impact on the Asian community," thus making it incumbent upon Asians to get involved in their communities.

"I think the fact that Asians are speaking up, that more Asians are involved is progress," he says. "I think in the next 10 to 20 years we're going to see more progress."

-Robert O'Malley



Chinatown street, late 1980s

R. O'Malley photo

Communications and Publications Coordinator

Office for Communications and Publications

The Office of Communications and Publications at Wellesley College is currently seeking a Communications and Publications Coordinator to assist in the production of all publications produced in the department. Responsibilities include: prepare copy and disks for the designer/printers; extensive proofreading; coordinate requests from other offices including follow-up; maintain publication files and slide library. Order and monitor office supplies; schedule appointments and meetings; oversee regular maintenance of office equipment, e.g., fax and photo-copying machines, printers, etc.; and perform other administrative tasks/duties in the office.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. Previous experience in publication production desirable. Excellent proofreading, computer skills and command of the English language required. Knowledge of MS Word and willingness to learn new computer skills are required. Knowledge of QuarkXPress is desirable. Coordinate multiple projects simultaneously, set priorities, meet deadlines and respond to requests in a timely manner. Function as a team player, providing feedback on progress and status of projects. Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.

If interested, send cover letter and resume to: Carolyn M. Slaboden, Employment Specialist, SP17, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181. For fullest consideration, applications should be submitted by October 15, 1997.

Wellesley College especially welcomes applications from ethnic minorities.



Wellesley College

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The QA Manager will head up the QA Department. The Qualified candidate will have a BSEE degree and 3 or more years' experience as a quality professional in the manufacture of electronic products, as well as ISO experience, computer literacy and the possession of good verbal and written communication skills. Fluent in Cantonese/Mandarin a plus.

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TUFTS NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund is soliciting request for financial support. Charitable, tax exempt community-based organizations located in Chinatown or serving Chinatown residents are eligible to apply. Eligible organizations must be able to demonstrate that members of the Tufts community are involved with them as volunteers. Applicants should contact Barbara Rubel at 627-3780 for an application. Applications are due on November 18. Awards will be announced on December 22.

Chinatown Says No to Return of Zone

Members of the Chinatown community told licensing officials last week that they do not want to go back in time. In an unambiguous message to the Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing, community members forcefully stated their opposition to the issuance of an entertainment license to Deja Vu Showgirls to operate a nude dancing venue in the former Royal Hotel on Washington Street.

In stating their opposition to the license, community members cited increased noise, traffic, and the kind of street crime - prostitution and drug dealing - that many Chinatown residents and workers often had to contend with when adult entertainment was in full swing along Washington Street. Before the closing of the Naked I several years ago, many residents were often harassed and intimidated by people loitering on the street outside the club.

Members of the Chinatown community and others nearly filled the cafeteria of the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on Washington Street to attend the licensing board public hearing on the application of Deja Vu Showgirls to open a 246-seat nude dancing club at 640-644 Washington St. in the city's adult entertainment district.

The second-floor "juice club" would have one main stage and 18 satellite stages where patrons could pay for private dances. The club, which would be separate from Liberty Books II on the first floor, would not serve alcoholic beverages and would be restricted to patrons 18 years of age or older. It would be open seven days a week from 11 A.M. to 2 A.M.

A national adult entertainment company, Deja Vu currently has 45 clubs operating in cities across the country. The Washington Street club would be managed by Kenneth Lee, who attended the meeting with attorneys Daniel O'Connell and Bradley Shafer. Also attending the hearing was James St. John, Deja Vu's chief executive officer.

In last week's hearing, Chinatown community members and the applicant's attorneys exchanged taunts and argued openly over the merits and relevance of the community's opposition, with Deja Vu's attorneys suggesting that community opposition was irrelevant because the establishment was to be located in the city's adult entertainment district and the required application procedures had been followed.

In an apparent effort to intimidate licensing board director Nancy Lo, O'Connell argued that Lo's hearing of the application was a conflict of interest because she had promoted Chinatown community interests on a previous occasion as an advisor to the mayor. O'Connell also complained about the city's decision to hold the hearing in Chinatown.

While Lo was unfazed by the belligerent tone of the lawyer, some members of the audience objected to the attack. O'Connell and Shafer also drew the ire of the community on a number of other occasions, particularly when O'Connell argued against allowing members of the Chinatown community to speak. "We're not going to be subjected to public vilification," said O'Connell at one point.

Members of the community, however, responded by saying that the purpose of a public hearing

has been dramatically reduced in recent years. "If the will of the community prevails soon it will be zero," he said.

Community members and local officials also berated the Deja Vu representatives for refusing to name the shareholders of Deja Vu Showgirls of Boston. O'Connell, however, said naming the shareholders was not a required part of the application process.

"I think it's entirely appropriate that they declare who the owners are, who the shareholders are," said Lynch, who added that they were "basically admitting they're ashamed of what they're doing."

Also arguing strongly against the application was City Council President James Kelly, who also scored points with the audience for highlighting the fact that the names of the owners of the Deja Vu were not listed on the application. Kelly held up a sheaf of documents which he said contained information on legal action taken against Deja Vu in various clubs across the country.

Shafer argued that the testimony of community residents opposing the license and the club was irrelevant. "You can listen to that all you want," he said, adding that their remarks had little to do with the criteria used in judging an application. He argued that the area was zoned for adult entertainment and suggested that nude dancing was protected by the Constitution in such a designated zone. Even though the residents obviously didn't want

adult entertainment, there was little they could do to stop it because the area was zoned for adult entertainment, he suggested.

Kelly asked the licensing board to postpone making a decision on the application for 120 days to give officials and the community more time to look into the background of Deja Vu Showgirls. The Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing generally has 30 days to make a decision.



Chinatown residents speaking at licensing board meeting last week.

R.O'Malley photo

is to allow people to voice their opinions. And when one attorney complained about being subjected to public vilification, one member of the audience shot back that the Chinatown community did not want to be subjected to Deja Vu's business.

In opposing the issuance of a license, several local officials argued that a new era had begun on Washington Street and that the people of Chinatown did not want to return to an earlier one. State Senator Stephen Lynch, who represents Chinatown, forcefully stated the concerns of residents in his address to the licensing board. Noting that the city should never have located the adult entertainment district so close to Chinatown in the first place, Lynch said there is "a new pattern of use developing in Chinatown and it does not include adult entertainment."

"This is a new day for Chinatown, a new time," said Lynch, who was applauded repeatedly during his address.

"We are public servants and you and I have a duty to protest these people, to protect these families," he continued.

"We've done them a great disservice in the past by letting this type of activity to go on," he said, adding that the number of Combat Zone business

PINE STREET INN

Pine Street Inn, New England's best known provider of services to homeless men, women and children has a number of openings at its Anchor Inn Long Island Facility.

BILINGUAL COUNSELORS 7AM-3:00PM, 3PM-11PM

We are in need of bilingual counselors to assist the guests in accessing services we provide. The ideal candidate will help with issues dealing with substance abuse and provide education regarding HIV prevention. You will act as primary counselor in some cases and will make assessments and identify programs as appropriate. Demonstrated skills as bilingual and understanding of Hispanic culture a must. High school diploma, GED or equivalent experience, ability to communicate verbally and in writing required. Req # 77-92

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You will coordinate a productive recruitment process within the Inn's programs in addition to external agencies. Responsibilities include management of the intake and assessment processes for prospective clients at Anchor Inn's Transitional Program. You will supervise the residents during the 30-day conditional period. You must have an Associate's degree or equivalent, and 2 years' experience preparing intake and assessments. Bilingual, Spanish speaking and 2 years' experience working in transitional/homeless shelter preferred. Req # 97-68

We offer a comprehensive benefit package for these opportunities. Applicants are asked to send a cover letter and resume including Req# to: Pine Street Inn, Human Resources Department, 434 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118. AA/EOE

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For more information, please call Julie Dealy at (617) 848-1616.

Franvale Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
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English/Chinese speaking person needed to perform routine maint. in 2 bldgs. in Chinatown section of Boston. Requires working knowledge of: electric, plumbing, heating, light carpentry, and cleaning. Must be able to read/write English. Knowledge of Cantonese dialect a plus. Resume to Rental Office 12 Dunster Road Bedford, MA 01730.

PINE STREET INN**MEN'S UNIT ADMINISTRATOR**

Pine Street Inn, New England's best known provider of services to homeless men, women and children is seeking an Administrator for its Men's Inn Shelter programs. You will serve as a member of the Inn's management team and provide leadership, direction, and manage daily shelter operations. You will oversee all internal referrals within the inn's programs and serve as liaison to outside agencies when appropriate. Bachelor's Degree or equivalent, 5 years of progressive human services experience, 3+ years' supervisory experience and strong working knowledge of substance abuse and mental illness required. Good written and verbal communication skills are a must. Req# 97-117

We offer a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefit package. Applicants, send two copies of cover letter and resume to Pine Street Inn, HR Department, 434 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118. AA/EOE

**BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Campus Police Officer - Chelsea**

Resp: Patrols building and adjacent areas for Chelsea campus. Maintains secure campus environment; investigates crimes; restrains or arrests suspects when necessary. Provide assistance to courts or grand juries for criminal prosecution. Knowledge of standard police and law enforcement procedures; familiarity with Chelsea and surrounding areas preferable; may work varied shifts. Previous experience and State Police license or Campus Police certification are encouraged to apply. Ability to interact with multi-ethnic populations as well as adults and non-traditional students; second language a plus

Salary: \$436.96/wk - \$22,721.92/yr
Closing Date: October 31, 1997

Bookkeeper II

Resp: Responsibilities include making entries concerning financial transactions for the Bursar's office, such as, journals and ledgers on an automated system. Performs related duties in receiving and depositing funds; scheduling payment of bills; verifying accuracy of figures; calculation and posting, and maintaining records.

Qualif: Must have at least two years of full-time or equivalent experience; part-time experience in bookkeeping or accounting; excellent interpersonal, customer service skills and an ability to work with a diverse students population.

Salary: \$413.05/wk - \$21,478.60/yr
Closing Date: October 31, 1997

**Transfer Counselor for Student Support Services Grant
(An MCC/MTA Unit Position)**
Half-time 12-month Grant-funded position
18 hours per week
(Search Extended)

Resp: Will assist students in transferring to upper level colleges and universities; design and implement group programs and workshops; assist new students through intake, advising and registration; coordinate the Mentor Program; assist with academic advising of currently enrolled students and will counselor students regarding their academic performance.

Qualif: Master's degree in Education or related field. Should have experience with personal and career counseling of disadvantaged students; should have a demonstrated knowledge of assessment and test interpretation procedures; and working knowledge of adaptive measures and learning strategies for disabled students.

Salary: \$15,912.00
Deadline: October 27, 1997.

Full-Time Position
Music Department
Professional MCCC/MTA

Resp: Teaches a load of (4) music courses, and participates in Department of College affairs and professional development activities; assists and advises students. Involved in continuous curriculum improvement.

Qualif: Master's degree in Music or related field required. Able to teach a range of departmental courses which may include, music appreciation, chorus, foundations of music and electronic music. College teaching experience desirable and commitment to the community college mission. Demonstrated ability to work in a diverse student population within a team setting.

Salary: \$33,145.00 - \$35,599.00
Starting Date: November 7, 1997

Technical Assistant II

Resp: Will provide computer support for disabled students using the academic Computing Center; support the work of the Disabled Student Advisor in providing computer assistance to handicapped students.

Qualif: Associate Degree or equivalent preferred; one to two years experience working in a computing environment. Ability to learn and to apply knowledge utilizing new technologies. Demonstrated ability to work with a diverse and handicapped user population; strong interpersonal skills required.

Salary: \$436.96/wk - \$22,722.00/yr
Closing Date: October 31, 1997

EDP Systems Analyst I

Resp: Responsible for analyzing procedures and problems and to refine data and convert it to a programmable form. Will confer with users to ascertain specific output requirements in breakouts, data summarization, formatting for management reports; perform related work as required.

Qualif: Associates Degree in Computer Science or equivalent experience preferred. Must have at least two years of full-time or equivalent part-time experience in computer programming and/or computer analysis experience. Demonstrated ability to work independently and as a member of a team; and to establish good working relationship with staff in identifying their systems needs and providing technical support.

Salary: \$560.55/wk - \$29,148.60/yr
Closing Date: October 31, 1997

To apply send resume and cover letter to:
Human Resources
Bunker Hill Community College
250 New Rutherford Ave
Boston, MA 02129-2991

Bunker Hill Community College is an Affirmative action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, people of color, persons with disabilities and others are strongly encouraged to apply.

Northeastern University**Systems Coordinator for LANs**
Network Operating Center

Serve as primary end-user technical troubleshooter for network problems, including hardware troubleshooting on IBM PC and Apple Macintosh compatible clients, operating system configuration on some platforms, and application software. Maintain UNIX-based database system to record end-user requests. Requires Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related area, or commensurate experience (4-6) years. Minimum of three years' extensive experience with LAN, NOS (Banyan strongly preferred) and application software. Extensive background in hardware and software troubleshooting for both IBM and Macintosh personal computers. Working knowledge of TCP/IP networking. Excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills. **Resume to Eva Kochanski, Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue, 39 Richards Hall, Boston, MA 02115. Northeastern University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity, Title IX Employer.**

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Dr. Pao is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he was elected to the Eta Kappa Nu Honor Society. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Pao is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and is a Clinical Instructor at Tufts University School of Medicine. He has special interest in cardiovascular diseases and preventive medicine. Dr. Pao is fluent in both English and Chinese.



Appointments with Dr. Pao may be scheduled by calling
(617) 449-0020.

STORIES

continued from page 2

More recently there's been hate mail received. It was received in September '96 but it was concealed for six to eight months by the management because they didn't want anyone to know about it, because they had passed the information off to the Boston Police. I believe the letter came right to 26 Court Street. It was addressed to other people in our department. Most of it was very racial. There was a lot of hate. There were death threats. No one has ever got a copy of the very first letter.

Management had spoken to people and they kind of little by little let information out, saying there was a death threat made on the electrical division, which is my division. It was towards blacks, toward Pakistanis, toward Chinese. They have never found out who did it.

But during the last couple of years there was one person who had got phone calls and they were racial, harassing phone calls. He was black and from Africa and he was working at a division of our department. And he would get these calls every day. Nine months. And they would say the N word over and over. It was someone who knew he had that job. And I believe strongly that person felt he was in position for that job but he didn't get it. So if he can torment him and make him leave, he might have a chance at the job. And he just felt that this person shouldn't have the job because he was black. Every day for nine months he would call and say the N word over and over. Then one day he reported it; he complained about it; and they caught the person and the person was working in our division.

I know who the person is. It's so unbelievable because the guy who sits behind me is the guy who threatened to snap my neck; the guy who sits in front of me is the guy who made the phone call. Everyone found out who he was because it was taken to court and everything. They eventually promoted him and gave him a permanent status. It's so unbelievable that I have to work under these kinds of conditions.

I received hate mail at home on June 13, 1997. There was a lot of racial stuff in the beginning. A lot of racial stuff in the middle. Threats were made. There were bodily threats made to me and I was told I need permission to speak. If I don't get permission I'd be tied to a tree and whipped. I believe it's coming from the workplace but I can't prove it. I feel there's a lot of hate in the workplace.

Just recently I came into my office and I was approached again by my director. When it happened the first time I had filed a complaint against him. I felt if he could do it once, what makes me think he can't do it again. This time it was a different section of the office. I got into the office about 8:15 in the morning. When I stepped into the office I passed through two doors. As soon as I was passed through the second door, my director was standing there. He started looking at me, like just staring into my eyes, looking at me from head to toe. And I felt really really threatened. I said, God this guy is making me feel really uncomfortable. I said the best thing to do is to walk away from the situation. Go around him. Mind my business and go to work. I tried to walk around him. He placed his hand on me. I tried to walk, but he just like held me back. He pushed me forward and said, I got to talk to you. And I got really upset and I told him to get his hands off me. Don't touch me again. You touched me once before and I don't appreciate having you touching me. Just don't do it again. And I had to say it six times over and over and I was so upset. And he said, Oh I didn't touch you.

He wanted to ask about a meeting that was going to take place downtown. He said, I hear you got a meeting downtown. Is that true or false? And I was going to just tell him, yes. But before I told him, yes, he had put his hand on my stomach, put pressure on me to push me back. I was going in there to check on some paper work, to make phone calls, sign in, and tell my supervisor that I was present for work, but he prevented me from going in; he blocked my way; he barred me from entering my workplace. I was so upset, I told him, don't you ever touch me again. You had no right to touch me; you did it once and I didn't feel comfortable.

A story about the hate mail our department received and how the department treated the issue was in the newspaper. They were taking things very lightly because they had received hate mail and had concealed it from the employees for eight months. They finally told the employees there's someone out there threatening your lives. They had given us police protection, which was a person sitting outside the front door reading a newspaper. And that was our police protection.

And as time went on more and more of the letters started coming into the office. The letters were all hate. I believe there were probably about 10 letters. They had named co-workers and threatened to shoot them. The only thing they had said about me was I needed permission to talk. Some of the letters were the same. Some of the paragraphs were the same. It's the same person.

This stuff is like something that could come out of the 40s and 50s, when racial tension was still high. But it's still being practiced today in the 90s. It still goes on in the workplace. You would think as the years go by people would grow up and grow smarter and be more aware of people's feelings, but I guess racism still lives on.

They were jeopardizing our safety because we still had to go to work and we didn't know who the author of the letters was. Some of the letters were more threatening than others. After the story was in the newspaper I guess the office got really quiet. When we returned to the office nothing was said. But we were looked at kind of funny. Everyone was staring.

I had hired an attorney because I was concerned about the issue and my safety. I had a recent meeting with my union rep and he told me that members of my union were not too happy with the newspaper article. He said people are in line for promotions and they don't appreciate your putting an article in the paper; if they're going for a promotion it might hurt their chances. They wanted to know the names of the people who assaulted me and put their hands on me and I refused to give that information out. If they want to know let them go to my attorney. I told the union rep if those guys really wanted names just tell them to come outside, I'll give them names. Maybe these are the guys who are writing the letters and are worried that they jeopardized their promotion. At the moment I do (have suspicions) but I can't disclose that information.

Right now it's still being investigated by the FBI, the Boston Police, the MCA police. And the attorney general is looking into it. I'm very uncomfortable with the situation because I still have to go to work. When I go to work I usually have a partner working with me and we kind of watch each other's back, help each other out. But my partner's been hurt for the last three weeks, so I have no help. So I'm subjecting myself to going into these buildings by myself and we still don't know who the author of the letters is. It could be anyone. I don't want to point fingers. But my safety is being jeopardized because they don't know.

The School Department is very slow in responding. I want the person caught and I want change in the department. In an Aug. 27, 1997 superintendent's circular, Mr. (Thomas) Payzant (the school superintendent) mentioned there would be zero tolerance of racial discrimination or sexual discrimination. Everything you can think of was in that one memorandum sent out to all school department personnel. It's a zero tolerance policy. And anyone who thinks of retaliating against a person who makes a complaint or files a law suit shall be terminated or disciplined. That's a change. That means more rights for the workers, for the workers who are there now and for the workers who will be coming in the future. That was something good that came out of it. They should have a very well-thought-out handbook to give to every employee in the city; they should have zero tolerance on this issue. Anyone who practices it (racism), preaches it, or preys on someone because of it should be automatically terminated.

I want to keep working there. I feel that I put enough years in and I didn't do anything wrong. It's racial animosity; it's jealousy; so many things are involved. I was told by a coworker that one of my supervisors had mentioned to him that they should never have hired me because I was straight out of high school and didn't know anything. He kept telling my coworker I should have been 40 or 45 because this job was made for someone who was close to retirement with 20 or 15 years left. It's like reverse age discrimination. Now I'm too young to be working here.

Being Asian builds resentment. I feel that over the years Asians have been getting a bad rep because of the wars that have taken place - the Korean War, the Vietnam War. It seems like these guys have it in their head to never let that issue die. If they see someone of Asian descent they're going to go right after that subject and say, Oh this guy's no good, he killed my uncle, he killed my father. But that's not true because I'm from a different generation.

One supervisor has spoken to me about my coworkers, who are black. He says, You can sit down with them, you can talk to them, you can have lunch with them, but don't associate with them. And this was between me and him. And I was thinking, He must be talking about my friends, and they're black. Still, it was unprofessional for a supervisor to talk that way. If you got nothing good to say, you don't say anything at all.

To me it has to stop. It's just tearing into society. It's pitting people against each other. It creates a sick feeling and it shouldn't be tolerated. What makes people resent minorities? A lot of people have good jobs and they want to keep the jobs and they just want to pass them on to the next generation. And if a minority should come along and get the job by accident or by his own merits, they say it should not be. That's the heart of the problem. That's when things start happening. Tires have been slashed; it's just outrageous what goes on.

When I was going to the Edwards Middle School, some of the other students would mimic Chinese words. One day I was coming home from middle school and someone at the back of the bus had thrown something to the front of the bus where these sisters were sitting. And when they got off the bus they came after me. They mauled my face with their fingernails; they gouged my face. The school bus driver just took off, he wouldn't stop the bus. They didn't even know who threw the object; they just went after me.

During my years at Charlestown High I was always picked on for being Asian. A lot of the Asian students who attended Charlestown High were bilingual students and they were like very smart kids. And I was in the vocational section of the school, the electrical department. And a lot of the kids resented me for being there because they thought all Chinese students should stay in science and math and keep away from them and not associate with them. There were days when they would just take it out on me, threaten me, beat me up. I would never retaliate because I was just too small. They felt I shouldn't be in that vocational program at all. That's their turf. I feel that if you're Asian they get very jealous and don't want you there.

Every time I go to work I think about the problems I had in middle school and high school and over the last 14 years of my employment with the School Department. And it's very nerve racking, it's very stressful, and it causes all kinds of different emotions to come out that I didn't have before. I'm trying to keep a good perspective on life. But when they prey on me and practice this ritual - they believe it's a ritual - they try to turn me into an evil person. You go home stressed out, with headaches, feeling dizzy, with your heart pounding fast and you can't sleep, you're worried that someone is going to come through your door because the hate mail came through the door. They tamper with your car. What's the next step? It's a very high energy atmosphere to work in. You don't know what's going to go on the next day. One day they'll be your best friend; the next day they'll go right after you. They're like the weather.

-Interview by Robert O'Malley

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USTRUST

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The Mental Health Division of Bay Cove Human Services, Inc. is looking for Asian, bicultural, and bilingual (written and verbal) individuals interested in working with chronically mentally ill adults in a residential program setting. Individuals must have a bachelor's degree in a related field or two years experience in human services. Good clinical and writing skills a plus! If interested send a letter of intent and resume to Siu Chi Chow at 66 Canal Street, Boston, MA 02114 or call her at (617) 288-3321.

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BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY HEADMASTER

The Boston Arts Academy, a public high school for the arts, will open fall 1998 at 174 Ipswich Street in Boston. Sponsored by the Boston Public Schools and the colleges of the Pro Arts Consortium, the Academy will provide intensive training in dance, music, theater and visual arts within a rigorous, comprehensive academic program.

The Headmaster is responsible for all aspects of development and operation of the school including staff recruitment, curriculum development, budgeting and fundraising. Experience should include: arts education leadership; teaching, preferably in an urban setting; use of multi-disciplinary curriculum and portfolio assessment; fundraising; commitment to ethnic diversity. Availability during spring 1998 required; full-time position starts by July, 1998. Salary range: \$68,000-\$78,000.

Boston Arts Academy is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Resume, cover letter and two recommendation letters must be received by December 1, 1997.

*Send to: John K. DiPaolo,
Project Coordinator,
Boston Arts Academy c/o Emerson College,
100 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116.
Phone: 617-824-8090.*

ARTS

Chinese Singer To Perform at MIT

Renowned vocalist Zhang Xing-yan will give a concert at M.I.T.'s Kresge Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 31, at 8 P.M.

Tickets for the event, which is sponsored by the Chinese Culture Institute, Asia On Stage, and the M.I.T. Science and Technology Initiative, are \$15, and can be ordered by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check to the Chinese Culture Institute at 276 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116. Orders should be placed immediately.

Zhang Xing-yan, who is from Beijing, is a bass with a tremendous voice. Professor Zhou Xiqo Yan, of Shanghai Conservatory and Zhou Xiao Yan Opera Center, described Zhang's voice as "rich, broad, and smooth with a deep and resonant timbre in the lower registry." Professor Zhou, who is China's most renowned voice teacher, went on to say that Zhang's talent deserved to be heard on major operatic stages around the world.

Kathryn Cathcart of the San Francisco Opera Center, said that Zhang "possesses a rare and beautiful basso voice and will make a notable contribution to the classical music profession."

His program for the Oct. 31 recital will include Chinese art songs ("To the East The Great River Rolls" and "How Can I Help But Miss Her"), and operatic arias ("Viravviso, O luoghi ameni" by Vincenzo Bellini, and works by Verdi, Mozart, Ossini, Mussorgsky, and Gounod). -Doris Chu

Sampan

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Sampan welcomes all donations, which are tax-deductible. Send letters to the editor, commentaries, calendar events and advertising for publication to 90 Tyler St., Boston, MA 02111 (617)426-9492.

Advertising Rates: \$10 per column inch; \$160 per quarter page; \$290 per halfpage. There are surcharges for translation and/or typesetting. Discounts are available for long-term advertisers.

Sampan is mailed within the U.S. upon request via third class postage for a \$30 charge and first class postage for a \$60 charge.

Full-Time, Entry Level Positions

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Primary functions will include researching and contacting prospective customers for the sale of MCET products and services, providing customer service, and overseeing customer accounts. In addition, you will support current client base in areas of product use, through training, demonstration and program utilization workshops. You will also manage contract renewals, billing, transaction reports and expense records.

Position requires a Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience. An understanding of emerging technologies and their application in education and business, as well as the ability to close sales and interface with clients is necessary. Strong presentation and public speaking skills a must. Travel required; must provide own transportation.

Jr. Staff Accountant

Reporting to the Manager of Finance, this position will coordinate and process A/P, A/R, and purchase order requests. You will communicate with vendors, prepare and review purchase orders and invoices, maintain cash receipts, and perform revenue analysis.

Position requires a Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience in accounting. Strong clerical, bookkeeping and organizational skills a must. In addition, you should have demonstrated experience in automated accounting systems, as well as working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet software.

For consideration for either position, please mail or fax resume by October 24, 1997, to: Human Resources, MCET, One Kendall Square, Bldg. 1500, Cambridge, MA 02139, or fax to: (617) 621-0291.

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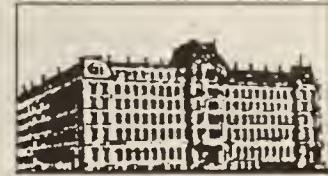
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十月
預報

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黎小姐(Amanda Le)是昆士醫院亞裔事務部主任，她能說多種語言，包括：粵語、國語、越南話。本院提供每週七天、每天24小時全日語言翻譯服務。黎小姐致力於促進亞裔病人的權利，並為亞裔社區與醫院間的溝通橋樑。

十二月
預報

- 亞裔聖誕聯歡會
時間：十二月六日上午九時至下午二時
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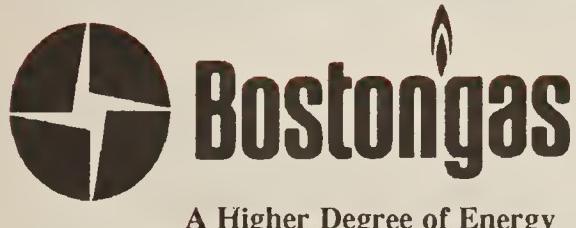
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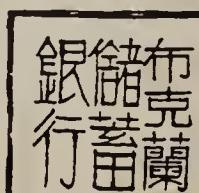
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十月三十一日星期五晚八時，由中華藝文苑和麻省理工學院國際科技部主持的張興彥獨唱音樂會，將在麻省理工學院的克利斯奇禮堂（Kresge Auditorium）舉行，張興彥自九五年到波士頓後這三年間曾若干次參加演出活動，最近的露面是八月間在波士頓艾默生劇場由中華藝文苑主辦的歌唱家音樂會，此外十月中旬他參加文復會主辦的紀念抗日六十年歌唱音樂會。又應牛頓圖書館之邀於十月十六日在該館有一次獨唱音樂會。自此譚嘉陵的中華表演藝術基金會致力音樂工作以來，中華藝文苑便很少從事類似的工作，因為文化工作浩瀚無窮，有心人能分頭料理，蓋面便可稍廣，若蜂擁朝一個方向奔跑豈不浪費人力？

但當眼前出現了才華過人的藝術人才時，我便禁不住想為他效一點力。若干年前一個十八歲的少年鋼琴家手中捏著一個紙條走進我的辦公室，紙上寫著我的名字和藝文苑的地址，原來是他的老師要他來見我，其實他的老師也不認識我，只是彼此慕名而已，不久當我籌備一個演出活動時，便給了他十五分鐘的節目時間。那次一聽，便驚於他的琴藝高超，第二年便邀他參加一個五人音樂會。音樂會舉行前數日，他的老師來電說，他也許不能出席了，因為他去參加一項國際鋼琴比賽（即著名的 Van Cliburn 國際鋼琴大賽）已入圍，決賽日正是我們音樂會的同時，我道了祝賀之詞，深為這小鋼琴家高興，並請了另一位鋼琴家頂替他出席我辦的音樂會。

音樂會次日那位老師來電告訴我，那小鋼琴家得了名次，他是唯一獲全國聲樂首獎，代表國家出席

男低音歌唱家張興彥獨唱音樂會

朱容

一代表美國參加比賽得名的人，接著我看到紐約時報、倫敦太晤士報的音樂評論，都盛讚這位鋼琴家的藝術，認為他的表達修養都超過得

首獎的蘇聯鋼琴家。

這位少年鋼琴家便是來自上海，當時華人圈中卻沒有一個人聽過他的名字的應天峰。我當時急切地希望將他介紹給國人，便於次年為他舉行了二次演奏會，並寫了幾篇文字介紹他。如今應天峰的造詣已不必我再說了，他每一次演奏會都受到最高的讚譽。最近譚嘉陵請他在 Jordan Hall 演奏權威樂，評者理查戴爾謂應天峰已是鋼琴泰斗，對拉哈馬利諾夫的銓釋已超過了哈諾維茲（Horowitz），而應天峰還是剛三十歲的青年，前途輝煌無量

當不在話下。

應天峰音樂會後，我已「洗手

」數年。當我聽到張興彥演唱時欽佩之情油然而生，便決意為他舉辦獨唱音樂會。那時我並不知悉張興彥的背景來歷，只是為他的音色、技巧、台風所動，他使我回想起若干年前在波士頓的傅海靜。記得首次聽傅海靜的歌唱是波士頓大學歌劇系演出的「灰姑娘」，傅飾演灰姑娘的父親。我在觀賞時已禁不住讚嘆不絕，次日理查戴爾的評論便將他單獨恭維了一番。如今傅海靜已在美國很有成就的歌劇演員。他的老師來電說，他也許不能出席了，因為他去參加一項國際鋼琴比賽（即著名的 Van Cliburn 國際鋼琴大賽）已入圍，決賽日正是我們音樂會的同時，我道了祝賀之詞，深為這小鋼琴家高興，並請了另一位鋼琴家頂替他出席我辦的音樂會。

音樂會次日那位老師來電告訴我，那小鋼琴家得了名次，他是唯一

英國電視公司（BBC）主辦在倫敦舉行的「卡第夫世界歌唱家比賽」（Cardiff Singers of the World）

九四年張興彥受舊金山歌劇中心邀請演出莫扎特的 Don Giovanni，該劇巡迴全美國三十個城市，張興彥得到「最佳演員」的獎譽並「莫利士家族獎」的獎金。次年他到波士頓訪傅海靜。傅介紹他認識了著名的歌劇教授菲麗絲克婷（Phyllis Curtin），克婷教授聽了他的歌唱後，立刻將他收為弟子留在波士頓大學。

克婷教授對張興彥的賞識器重可從她的幾句評語中看出，她稱張興彥為「非常不平凡的歌唱者」。她並說在三十年教導專業歌者的歷史中，從未遇到一個歌者具有比張興彥更好的資質，也只見過三位能與張興彥相比的歌者。而這三位如今都是美國、加拿大和歐洲歌劇院中的演員。

「舊金山歌劇中心」的負責人讚頌張興彥「具有少見的幽美的男低音」，並預言他將在音樂界作出重要貢獻。

中國著名前輩女高音聲樂家周小燕讚張興彥的音質「丰硕、寬闊、平潤、低音位的音色深沉而富共鳴」。

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在「歡迎美國紐英崙中華藝術協會」紅布條與鮮花的歡迎下，中華藝術協會傳統中國舞蹈團於七月十六日晚抵達上海國際機場。想定居波士頓十九年中，我們也制作了多少次紅布條歡迎各地來訪貴賓，這次居然輪到自己也有受到此般熱烈歡迎的一天。

我們全團二十人住宿在上海師範大學的外賓樓，兩人一房，雖不是豪華的大旅館，但每個房間內部都有冷氣、彩色電視、冰箱及浴室等設備。邀請單位——上海歸國華僑聯合會對我們之飲食起居特別關懷，深怕來自美國的我們生病，他們特意訂購數箱瓶裝礦泉水與罐裝可樂、汽水等供我們飲用，我也一再注意提醒孩子們不可食用生冷食物。十天來，我們沒有一人生病或感不適。每日早餐在外賓樓的餐廳食用，稀飯小菜，外加水煮雞蛋、牛奶奶及兩件小點心。午、晚餐也偶而在餐廳食用，每人三菜一湯配白飯。但大多數是在外接受宴請。孩子

們對上海的小籠包特別喜愛，吃得不亦樂乎，大家也盡享無錫的名產水蜜桃。三場在靜安區青少年活動中心的演出是令人振奮的。這是一棟在其餘半場由上海青少年藝校及活動中心藝術團等單位提供。相較之下，我們的節目竟然毫不遜色。據說上海的各區皆設有青少年活動中心，內設有科技室、溜冰場、障礙迷宮及各種文化教室，為青少年提供一個良好的休閒課外活動場地。

第四場演出是在位於外灘的著名陳毅廣場，這是一場戶外演出。當我們到達廣場時，塔建的大舞台後牆已張貼上「上海——美國波士頓青少年仲夏晚會」的大標題，色彩繽紛，真是一場美觀的演出。接著我們參加了上海國際兒童藝術節的開幕式，舞台設計及偉大的場面，可媲美世界選美會。節目安排得緊湊、熟練及壯觀，真是難得一見。

值得提的是靜安區青少年活動中心以及青浦縣為我們安排的兩次聯歡會，還有華僑青少年藝校安排的歡送會。經過特別佈置的場地；悉心安排節目的內容，讓兩地孩子結交朋友，互贈禮物，雙方在餘興節目中互相觀摩，並有踩氣球、頭頂氣球、餵食蛋糕、包餃子及數字繞口令等等比賽，讓孩子們玩得盡興。

購物是孩子們最高興的事，我們也讓孩子們有過一次乘坐公車及

地鐵到百貨公司購物的經驗。上海物價要比美國便宜很多，孩子們在買得高興之餘，也不忘為自己在美的家人及沒有隨行的舞蹈團員們買些禮物。

為期十天的上海行，領隊和隨行家長及我都負起很大的責任，大家都相當辛苦。但我們讓孩子們有機會看到遠在彼岸的自己同胞及自己的國家。雖然現今的上海已是高楼大廈聳立，幾條高架橋也都趕上時代，但我們也看到一般人民生活的情形，住居沒冷氣；滿街不顧行人的腳踏車；落後的洗衣機而沒乾機。當地的孩子們專心地在悶熱的教室內練唱、習舞及學習各種文化課程，深深地讓我們的

子感到自己是多幸福，而且領悟到我們的孩子們

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工作場所種族歧視的一個實例

華裔余國榮的遭遇

朱偉憶



余國榮在華埠

一名華裔青年在其工作的波士頓公立學校部被歧視騷擾達十四年之久。儘管他在美國出生成長毫無語言障礙，盡管他工作努力技術好，只因他是少數族裔，就遭到同事嫉妒侮辱、上司不公平對待，並在工作時被無端攻擊，以致收到指名道姓寄到他家中的恐嚇信，更表示了明顯的種族歧視動機，使得他在長期忍辱負重之後，不得不訴諸公堂，為自己的權力與安全而鬥爭。

華人前進會的駱理德在報上讀到有關報導之後，意識到這是華人遭受工

作場合歧視待遇的一個典型案例，她便與受害人聯繫，希望通過他的故事對整個社區尤其是華人新移民們進行教育

，使大家懂得如何辨別種族歧視性仇視

犯罪和工作場所的騷擾犯罪，知道如

何為保衛自己權力與人身安全而鬥爭和

尋求援助。

在華人前進會的辦公室中，當事人余國榮 (Jimmy Yee) 向記者講述了自己

的經歷：

今年三十一歲的余國榮出生在波士頓，小時候在華埠的屋街與堡壘村長

大，現居波士頓西洛士百瑞區 West Roxbury)。他當年在查里斯鎮高中讀書

，由於該校有中英雙語教育計劃，所以

全校華人學生約有二百余，而通常華

人學生因天資聰穎，學習優秀會遭到

的，能在高中尚未畢業就找到工作也

總是件幸運的事。

一九八四年七月，年方十八歲的

余國榮開始到波士頓公立學校系統的

計劃與工程處上班，職責是保養測試

公立學校舍的火災報警系統，每個月

要將四十余所公立學校的校舍普查一遍

，因此天天得在各學校間奔波，同時

能夠在市政府管轄下的公校系統

順利找到一份待遇不錯的全職工作，或

許會被許多華人認為是余國榮的運氣

，但誰知這幸運的起點也正是他惡夢

的開端。

「我還記得初次到公校工程處的

火警管理部門上班時的情景，我當時只

是個十八歲的大男孩，也是到該部門

工作的第一個和唯一一個亞裔，那里的

五十余名職工幾乎全是白人，很多人

已經在那里工作多年，當領班把我介紹給

大家時，沒人給我好臉色看，他們從

後一天起就把我這個華人小子當成來搶

他飯碗的敵手。」余國榮回憶說。

在這種遭受冷遇的環境中，別人

都不肯對他進行工作指導，他全靠自己

觀察摸索來熟悉業務，領班對他也不

冷不熱，而且每隔幾個月他就得換個

新領班，沒有人願意和他長期共事。

上班半年之後，部門負責人曾打算為

他增加超時工作量，因為超時工作可

以獲得半工資，老職工們很嫉妒他這個

各種族裔，但余國榮卻是唯一一名亞

裔，從那時起他就遭培訓班中其他同

學欺侮，他們認為他不該參加這個班

。至於為何進入培訓班的原因，余國

榮表示至今自己也並不清楚：「通常，

高中的學生都是自己選擇走學業方向，

還是走參加技術培訓之路。亞裔學生一

般都繼續沿學業方向發展，以便高中

畢業後可以升大學深造，我當時也懷

有同樣理想。但使我不解的是，我是被

學校分派到那個培訓班而非自願報名的

。因而，我自己很被動，其他族裔的同

學也覺得我在與他們爭職業，所以有些

人在吸毒酗酒之後就拿我出氣、打罵

我。」

雖然培訓班的經歷就為還是十幾

歲少年的余國榮留下了遭歧視的陰影

，但究竟時間短暫，而且作為補償是

他獲得了就業機會，盡管他是同期培

訓班四十名學員中最後一名得到職業

的，能在高中尚未畢業就找到工作也

總是件幸運的事。

余國榮開始到波士頓公立學校系統的

計劃與工程處上班，職責是保養測試

公立學校舍的火災報警系統，每個月

要將四十余所公立學校的校舍普查一遍

，因此天天得在各學校間奔波，同時

能夠在市政府管轄下的公校系統

順利找到一份待遇不錯的全職工作，或

許會被許多華人認為是余國榮的運氣

，但誰知這幸運的起點也正是他惡夢

的開端。

余國榮說他第一次遭人體武力攻

擊是在一家學校檢查火災報警系統時，

而攻擊他的竟是該校的一名教師。當時

余國榮正在測試警報，而校內師生們聽

到警鈴後向樓外疏散，按規定都要沿

一側樓梯下樓，余國榮因正在測試系統

，所以站在另一側，那位教師見到身材

瘦小面相又很年輕的余國榮，以為他

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否想過調換環境與工作。他表示：

「我不喜歡周圍的一些人。」他還說：

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，傳統上幹這類技術工人職業的都是

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不像白領階級比較了解法規，不太敢表

現得太過分；而在這些地方工作並遭

到歧視迫害的少數族裔們也同樣因教育

程度不夠高和對美國法律不夠了解而不

知如何對待面臨的挑釁。希望通過一個

華人青年受到不平待遇的故事，使我們

上告，使施威者受到處罰，而自己有

權利得到補償。」

余國榮的母親也為波士頓公立學校

系統工作多年，曾在昆士小學做午

餐供應服務。她也有被歧視侮辱的經

歷，有時不得不回家流眼淚。余國榮

數族裔在美國社會生存的不易之處。

問到余國榮受欺負這麼多年，是

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「朱蓉表示：美化華埠、中秋新年慶祝等活動，使社區共同協力美化市容清掃街道，華埠的清潔有很大好轉。甄云龍說：波士頓的中國城以往被圍在由紅燈區和高速公路為界的窄小地域內，很難向外發展，但近年來由於社區民眾的努力，紅燈區日漸蕭條，治安好轉，高速公路增建出口等計劃也得到限制，因而中國城的生意機構得以向四面延伸。而亞裔社區的發展擴大更是不局限於華埠的地理範圍內，華人和亞裔人口在整個大波士頓地區不斷增長。甄云龍雖然已在郊區牛頓市住了近二十年，但工作和經營以住一直離不開華埠，他的太太著名太極大師麥寶嬪師傅開的武館也設在華埠大同村。但近年來，郊區華人的增長已使各行各業向更廣闊的領域擴張，麥師傅兩年前又在牛頓市開了武術分館，也是因為一方面郊區中美人士有此需求，另一方面不少學員對華埠的安全與泊車問題懷有擔憂，寧可去郊區。甄云龍表示：雖然華埠已有很大進步，但人們對它仍有不良印象，也使我們華人感到不太光彩又不服氣，不過也反映出亞裔事業應逐漸離開華埠向其他市鎮發展的必然趨勢，那里也有衆多亞裔人口在等待我們的服務。

余黃小娜女士指出：「中國城的變化不光是表面的而是實質性的，有些問題似乎依然存在，但出發點卻不同了。二十多年前華埠的住房緊張就是問題，那時大同村剛在建設，如今造起了華信屋、美華村，可住房仍然是問題。當年許多人搬離華埠是因建公路房屋拆遷等不得已的因素，而現在人們遷出華埠卻是為了到郊區尋找更好的居住環境或更佳的子女教育條件。社會的發展也使社區民眾的生活要求發生了變化。」

報導方向的轉變

四分之一世紀以來，隨著本地華人乃至亞裔社區的發展變化，「舢舨」的報導方向與內容形式也幾經改變，從連華埠左鄰右舍婚喪嫁娶都登的簡報，到深入剖析社區問題的雙周報；覆蓋範圍也逐漸在地理上擴展到郊區，在內容上囊括了社會、政治、商業、經濟、文藝、教育、娛樂等各個方面，因此

務擔任中文編輯的余黃小娜女士說：「當年『舢舨』全靠『舢舨小組』負責，大家都是義務服務，後來一步步發

展到由月刊到雙周刊，由中文全從英文翻譯到中英雙語各自獨立從而加強了中文版的地位，由義工到有了授薪的編輯和廣告人員。然而隨著中英文媒體的增多，「舢舨」當年作為唯一華人社區報刊的地位已不復存在，新聞報導的功能也被周期更短的日報、周報所取代，因此面臨新的挑戰。若仍墨守成規以不變應萬變則不能趕上時代的發展，讀者們也不能總以老眼光去衡量「舢舨」。

甄云龍表示：「現在『舢舨』選擇了深入報導主題的道路是走對了，這正是我十七年前離開舢舨中文編輯崗位時就真誠提出過的建議。因為自從有了中文日報、周報還有廣播電台，雙周報『舢舨』的新聞效應已大大減弱，所以不必去搶國內外新聞及社區快訊，而要在深入報導上下功夫。」

每一份報刊要吸引不同階層的讀者是很難的，「衆口難調」也適用於新聞領域。不少華埠的老讀者對『舢舨』擴大對其他內容的報導因而不能不減少華埠消息有所抱怨，而許多郊區居民和專業人士卻仍嫌『舢舨』對中國城內的「內哄爭吵」涉及過多。原哈佛大學教授、劍橋新語主持人之一的陸惠風博士卻認為：「我認為那些來本地不久、或並不很了解波士頓華人社區發展史的專業人士和郊區居民才應更經常地讀起先表示並不愛讀盡是描寫當地瑣碎消息和中國城內家長里短的『舢舨』，而寧可看有新聞有評論政經文藝俱全的文章。」

一位從中國大陸來美不久的讀者他中文報刊。但後來讀了『舢舨』的一些封面故事及重點文章後，認為有些文章夠得上給中國政府領導人當「內參」。他媒體上只能零敲碎打的內容卻在『舢舨』上綜合起來，既有事實也有分析，卻不將主觀意志強加於人，而是讓讀者看過後做更深的思考。

還有不少讀者反應，有些原已知到的問題，如拉丁學校的種族配額制，道的話題，如拉丁學校的種族配額制，雖然從新聞性來講已經過時，但從其他媒體上只能零敲碎打的內容卻在『舢舨』上綜合起來，既有事實也有分析，卻不將主觀意志強加於人，而是讓讀者看過後做更深的思考。

向美國學校介紹了多年中華文化，近來正在從事特殊教育工作的王啓華還提出了一個亞裔社區的新聞媒介應該注重報導的問題，就是家長與子女間的交流溝通，以及對下一代進行雙文化

心理教育。她指出：「我們這一代移民來到美國社會已經經受很大壓力，但心中還有本民族的文化價值做支撐，但下一代就更痛苦，看起來他們在美國成長沒有語言文化障礙，但實際上心理矛盾更重，既要融入主流與美國同學們平等，又得接受適應家長的東方文化環境。許多家長並不很了解美國『不要爭第一』的教育觀，也不理解孩子的苦惱，仍以中國式的教育方式對孩子學業才藝方面注重太多，卻忽視了心理上的培訓，以導致不少亞裔青少年心理障礙。」

甄云龍說：「新移民提供的教育服務光是雙語計算還不夠，也應在社會認同與心理輔導方面更加強些。『舢舨』在雙文化教育與親子關係方面多進行報導是十分必要的，將有長遠的意義。」

不過，面對社會的發展，尤其是亞裔社區成份的多元化，以致原先主要服務於華人新移民的華美福利會已接待了更多的來自其他亞洲國家地區的人民，因此在幾年前將其英文會名改成了「亞美福利會」。但目前似乎這個名稱也難概括其服務對象，因為來這裡尋求幫助的又多了許多東歐及非洲國家的移民。『舢舨』要滿足各種不同文化的背景讀者的需要顯然更加困難。

甄云龍指出：「『舢舨』是本地社區的有功之臣，也對華美福利會做出了很大的貢獻，帶來的利益不能只算經濟賬，而是提高了華美的名譽和社會地位。因此，『舢舨』及其工作人員真不該被虧待，在傳媒技術與工具高度電腦化的今天，『舢舨』也必須在技術手段上趕上科技的發展才能在報導上滿足社會的需要。」工欲善其事，必先利其器。」對『舢舨』發展之艱辛深有體驗的余黃小娜表示：「在『舢舨』創辦的前十來年里，全靠了社區各界的支持，如今有了專職工作人員，但兩三個人的力量和水平究竟有限，要走入報導之路，往往並不是一個編輯就能掌握的。因此，華美福利會和『舢舨』都應反省一下，是想繼續發展還是停滯不前。當然財源與人力是實際問題，但首先要看人們的主觀意識是否敢於迎接挑戰。我們的社區成長到今天

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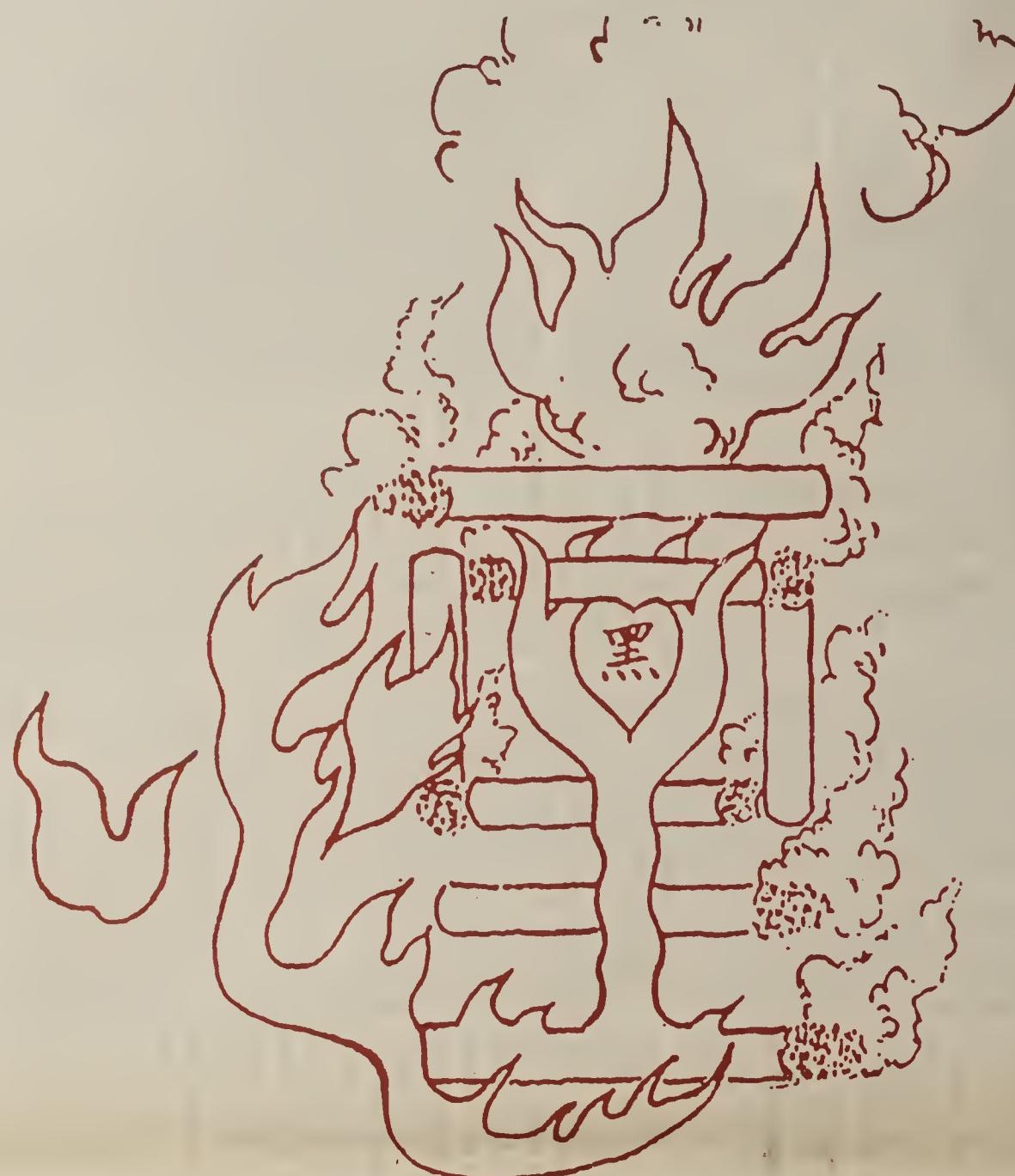


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